

File: 18810 04 EBBMA

September 1, 2004

To: Regional Managers  
District Managers  
Licensees

From: Bob G. Clark  
Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator

**Re: Emergency Management Unit Designations**

Following the 2004 provincial forest health overview survey analysis, the Council of Forest Industries/Ministry of Forests (COFI/MOF) fall survey results analysis and recommendations from regions, districts and licensees, I will again re-designate emergency management units (EMU's) within the provincial emergency bark beetle management area (EBBMA). The March 2004 EBBMA map can be located at [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain\\_pine\\_beetle/index.htm#regulations](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/index.htm#regulations).



As per previous years, I again ask that in making recommendations for beetle management unit (BMU) objectives you follow the principles of the *Provincial Bark Beetle Management Technical Implementation Guidelines* located at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/forsite/fhdata/bbstrategy.htm>. These guidelines provide a good description of how an area's level of infestation coupled with resource management goals and objectives can help decide whether to aggressively manage, hold static, or salvage in a given unit.



I will use your recommendations and the above mentioned surveys' analyses as well as consider the *Provincial Level Projection of the Current Mountain Pine Beetle Outbreak*, [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain\\_pine\\_beetle/index.htm#regulations](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/mountain_pine_beetle/index.htm#regulations) in deciding EMU designations. Typically, BMU objectives of Suppression and Holding coincide with Aggressive and Sanitation EMU's, respectively, and Salvage and Monitor BMU's are aggregated into Salvage EMU's.

Targeted for mid-December, the EMU designations will occur while operations are ongoing during the harvest season. Therefore, a time lag for new salvage EMU's may be considered. I ask districts, in consultation with licensees, to advise where an EMU downgrade to salvage will cause operational concerns for licensees that have already invested into *Bark Beetle Regulation* (BBR) cutblock layout<sup>1</sup>. Discussions should begin now and up to the time of receiving and commenting on a draft map as discussed below.

---

<sup>1</sup> B.C. Reg. 286/2001 (BBR) provides streamlined planning provisions under the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act* for cutblock openings up to 15 hectares in size. The issuance of salvage permits that

Section 109 of the *Forest Planning and Practices Regulation* allows for the continuation of the BBR during transition<sup>2</sup>. Under the BBR, the Minister of Forests approves additions to the EBBMA. Where a district or licensees feel it necessary to make an addition, a recommendation to the Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator (PBBC) must include information with respect to the level of infestation and potential for spread. The PBBC will then make a case to the Minister on your behalf.

This EMU designation process is handled separately from decisions on funding for suppression BMU's. Therefore, recommendations on EMU designations and BMU objectives should be based as much as possible upon an area's level of Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) infestation, management goals for the area, and capacity to manage the goals accordingly. Where funding is available for suppression BMU activities, prioritization and allocation is managed by Forest Practices Branch of the Ministry of Forests. For more information regarding funding of treatments within suppression BMU's, contact Tim Ebata at (250) 387-8739.

It is anticipated that we will experience another significant increase in MPB levels this year. As such, we may have fewer units suitable for aggressive management and more units conducive to salvage operations in some areas. To that end, I encourage you to continue working together at district and regional levels in providing recommendations and input into beetle management strategies through the various means discussed above.

EMU Designation Process Plan – release this letter and request feedback on process by September 22, 2004.

- Review overview survey, COFI/MOF fall survey, and recommendations in preparing draft EBBMA map by mid-November.
- Release draft EBBMA map by mid-November for review – feedback due December 1, 2004.
- Finalize EBBMA map by mid-December.

Any questions or comments can be directed to Barry Dobbin at (250) 565-6255 or by email at [Barry.Dobbin@gems9.gov.bc.ca](mailto:Barry.Dobbin@gems9.gov.bc.ca).

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Robert G. Clark  
Provincial Bark Beetle Co-ordinator

---

recognize specified operational cost estimates for small patch sanitation, small clear-cut and medium clear-cut sized openings, as per the *Interior Appraisal Manual* resulted in what has become known as “BBR permits”.

These permits are intended for Aggressive and Sanitation EMU's but not for Salvage EMU's.

<sup>2</sup> The streamlined planning provisions of the BBR can be realized through a well-designed Forest Stewardship Plan under the *Forest and Range Practices Act*.